# Carmen sæculare

**CD 1**

4 **Ouverture**

5 **Prologus**
**Proposita Argumenti dignitate, poëta animos ad audiendum comparat**

**The importance of the subject is established and the poet prepares minds to listen**

Odi profanum vulgus et arceo;
favete linguis: carmina non prius
audita Musarum sacerdos
virginibus puerisque canto.

I hate the profane crowd and keep my distance from it;
guard your tongues:
I, a priest of the Muses, sing songs never before heard
for girls and boys.

**Prima Pars**
**Admonet poëta pueros ac puellas ut carmina bene rcitent**

**First Part**
**The poet admonishes the boys and girls to sing the songs well**

6 Spiritum Phœbus mihi, Phœbus artem
carminis nomenque dedit poëtæ.
virginum primæ puerique claris
patribus orti,

Phoebus gave me the spirit, Phoebus the art
of song, the name of poet.
You, the first of girls and boys from famous
fathers sprung,

7 Deliæ tutela deæ, fugaces
lyncas et cervos cohibentis arcu,
Lesbium servate pedem, meique
pollicis ictum.

protected by the Delian goddess who, fleeing
lynxes and deer, shoots with her bow,
keep to the Sapphic measure, and to
the beat of my thumb.

rite Latonæ puerum canentes,
rite crescentem face Noctilucam,
prosperam frugum celeremque pronos
volvere menses.

Duly singing a hymn to the son of Latona
duly the one that shines in the night with growing lustre,
blessing the crops and quick to move on
the succeeding months.

8 Nupta iam dices: “Ego dis amicum,
sæculo festas referente luces,
reddidi carmen docilis modorum
vatis Horati.”

Once married you will say: “I sang a song dear to the gods
when the century brought those festive days,
well-versed in the measures
of the bard Horace.”

**Hymnus ad Apollinem**
**Secunda Pars**
**Rogat Apollinem chorus uterque, ut sæculare carmen probet et tueatur**

**Hymn to Apollo**
**Second Part**
**Each chorus asks Apollo to approve and protect the centennial song**

9 Dive, quem proles Niobea magnæ
vindicem linguæ Tityosque raptor
sensit et Troiæ prope victor altæ
Phthius Achilles,

God, whose chastisement of proud words
the children of Niobe felt, as did the ravisher Tityus
and, when almost the victor of lofty Troy,
Phthian Achilles, too,

10 Ceteris maior, tibi miles impar,
filius quamvis Thetidis marinæ
Dardanas turres quateret tremenda
cuspide pugnax.

Greater than others, but not your equal as a soldier,
despite being the son of Thetis of the sea,
he fiercely shook the Dardanian towers
with his terrible spear.

11 Ille mordaci velut icta ferro
pinus aut impulsa cupressus Euro
procidit late posuitque collum in
pulvere Teucro.

He, like a pine-tree struck by a biting axe
or a cypress uprooted by the east wind,
fell down and laid his neck on
the Teucrian dust.

Ille non inclusus equo Minervæ
sacra mentito male feriatos
Troas et lætam Priami choreis
falleret aulam;

He was not to be shut in that horse, falsely
dedicated to Minerva, that would trick
the rejoicing Trojans and Priam’s palace,
happy with dancing;

sed palam captis gravis, heu nefas, heu!
nescios fari pueros Achivis
ureret flammis, etiam latentem
matris in alvo;

but pitiless towards those openly captured, alas, ah alas!
innocent children in Achaean flames
he would have burnt, and the one also lying
in his mother's womb;

12 Ni tuis flexus Venerisque gratæ
vocibus, divum Pater adnuisset
rebus Æneæ, potiore ductos
alite muros.

If, swayed by your words and those of gracious Venus,
the Father of the gods had not agreed
to let Aeneas build new walls
of mightier power.

13 Doctor argutæ fidicen Thaliæ,
Phœbe, qui Xantho lavis amne crines,
Dauniæ defende decus Camenæ
levis Agyeu.

Lyre-player, teacher of clear-voiced Thalia,
Phoebus, who in the river Xanthus wash your hair,
defend the honour of the Daunian Muse Camena,
beardless guardian of the streets.

**Tertia Pars**
**Hortantur se multi Pueri et Puellæ**
**ad celebrandas Apollinis et Dianæ laudes**

**Third Part**
**Many boys and girls urge one another**
**to celebrate the praises of Apollo and Diana**

14 Dianam teneræ dicite virgines,
intonsum, pueri, dicite Cynthium,
Latonamque supremo,
dilectam penitus Iovi.

Tender maidens, sing to Diana,
boys, sing to the Cynthian god of the long hair,
and to Latona, beloved
of highest Jupiter.

15 Vos lætam fluviis et nemorum coma,
quæcumque aut gelido prominet Algido,
nigris aut Erimanthi
sylvis aut viridis Cragi;

Sing to her who rejoices in the rivers and foliage of the groves,
that are on frozen Algidus
or the black woods of Erimanthus
or of green Cragus;

vos Tempe totidem tollite laudibus,
natalemque, mares, Delon Apollinis
insignemque pharetra
fraternaque humerum lyra.

And you, boys, extol Tempe,
and Delos, birthplace of Apollo
and that shoulder famous for its quiver
and its companion lyre.

16 Hic bellum lacrimosum, hic miseram famem
pestemque a populo et principe Cæsare in
Persas atque Britannos
vestra motus aget prece.

Let him drive tearful war, wretched famine
and plague from the people and the Emperor Caesar,
moved by your prayer,
to the Persians and Britons.

**CD 2**

**Parts Quarta**
**Preces pro imperii et imperatoris**
**incolumitate**

**Fourth Part**
**Prayers for the safety of the Empire**
**and the Emperor**

1 Phœbe silvarumque potens Diana,
lucidum cœli decus, o colendi
semper et culti, date quæ precamur
tempore sacro,

Phoebus and Diana, powerful over the woods,
bright ornament of heaven, to be worshipped
always and honoured, answer our prayers
at this holy time,

quo Sibyllini monuere versus
virgines lectas puerosque castos
dis, quibus septem placuere colles,
dicere carmen.

at which the Sybilline verses bid
chosen girls and chaste boys
to sing a song to the gods,
whom the seven hills of Rome have pleased.

2 Alme Sol, curru nitido diem qui
promis et celas, aliusque et idem
nasceris, possis nihil urbe Roma
visere maius.

Kind Sun, who on shining chariot
bring forth and hide the day,
reborn and yet never changing,
may you see nothing greater than the city of Rome.

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| 3 Rite maturos aperire partus<br>lenis, Ilithiyia, tuere matres,<br>sive tu Lucina probas vocari<br>seu Genitalis: | You. O Moon, who duly gently protects<br>mothers at the time of parturition,<br>whether you would be called Lucina<br>or Genitalis: |
| diva, producas subolem patrumque<br>prosperes decreta super iugandis<br>feminis prolisque novæ feraci<br>lege marita. | goddess, bring forth our offspring<br>and bless the decrees of our fathers on<br>women in wedlock and the source of new children<br>under the nuptial law. |
| 4 Certus undenos deciens per annos<br>orbis ut cantus referatque ludos<br>ter die claro totiensque grata<br>nocte frequentis. | So that surely a cycle of ten times eleven years<br>may bring back songs and games<br>over three bright days and as many<br>a pleasing night. |
| 5 Vosque veraces cecinisse, Parcæ,<br>quod semel dictum est stabilisque rerum<br>terminus servet, bona iam peractis<br>iungite fata. | And you, Fates, who truthfully have prophesied,<br>may what once was said remain unchanged,<br>join good fortune<br>to that which is already past. |
| 6 Fertilis frugum pecorisque Tellus<br>spicea donet Cererem corona;<br>nutriant fetus et aquæ salubres<br>et Iovis auræ. | Let Mother Earth, fertile in crops and cattle,<br>grant Ceres a crown of corn;<br>let health-giving water and the breezes of Jupiter<br>feed her offspring. |
| 7 Condito mitis placidusque telo<br>supplices audi pueros, Apollo;<br>siderum regina bicornis, audi,<br>Luna, puellas. | Gentle and friendly, your bow laid aside,<br>Apollo, hear the boys in supplication;<br>O Moon, two-horned goddess of the stars,<br>listen to the girls. |
| 8 Roma si vestrum est opus, Iliæque<br>litus Etruscum tenuere turmæ,<br>iussa pars mutare Lares et urbem<br>sospite cursu, | If Rome is your work, if the troops<br>of Ilium have landed on the Etruscan shore,<br>those who, ordered to change their home and city<br>to make an auspicious journey, |
| cui per ardentem sine fraude Troiam<br>castus Æneas patriæ superstes<br>liberum munivit iter, daturus<br>plura relictis; | it is for them that the chaste Aeneas,<br>last survivor of his country,<br>made secure a voyage of freedom, to give back<br>more than had been abandoned; |
| 9 Di, probos mores docili iuventæ,<br>di, senectuti placidæ quietem,<br>Romulæ genti date remque prolemque<br>et decus omne; | Gods grant honest character to youth that learns,<br>gods grant rest to peaceful old age,<br>to the people of Romulus prosperity, offspring<br>and every honour; |
| 10 quæque vos bobus veneratur albis<br>clarus Anchisæ Venerisque sanguis<br>impetret, bellante prior, iacentem<br>lenis in hostem. | and when with white oxen he honours you,<br>the famous descendant of Anchises and Venus,<br>may he ask and obtain what he will, over his opponent,<br>merciful to his enemy lying before him at his feet. |
| 11 Iam mari terraque manus potentis<br>Medus Albanasque timet secures;<br>iam Scythæ responsa petunt, superbi<br>nuper et Indi; | Now the Mede fears his hand, powerful by sea and land,<br>and the fasces of Albany;<br>now the Scythians and the Indians, lately proud,<br>seek a wise answer; |
| 12 iam Fides et Pax et Honor Pudorque<br>priscus et neglecta redire Virtus<br>audet apparetque beata pleno<br>Copia cornu; | now Faith and Peace and Honour and old-fashioned<br>Decency and neglected Virtue dare to return<br>and there appears with full horn<br>blessed Plenty; |
| 13 augur et fulgente decorus arcu<br>Phœbus acceptusque novem Camenis,<br>qui salutari levat arte fessos<br>corporis artus, | You, Phoebus, prophet decked with shining bow,<br>accepted too by the nine Muses,<br>who with healing art relieves the body's<br>weary limbs, |

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| | si Palatinas videt æquus arces,<br>remque Romanam Latiumque felix<br>alterum in lustrum meliusque semper<br>proroget ævum; | as you look favourably on the Palatine citadel<br>and in blessing on the Roman state and Latium,<br>grant an ever more<br>prosperous age; |
| 14 | quæque Aventinum tenet Algidumque,<br>quindecim Diana preces virorum<br>curet et votis puerorum amicas<br>applicet aures. | and Diana, who holds the Aventine and Algidus,<br>may she answer the prayers of our fifteen men<br>and lend a friendly ear<br>to the vows of children. |
| 15 | Hæc Iovem sentire deosque cunctos<br>spem bonam certamque domum reporto,<br>doctus et Phœbi chorus et Dianæ<br>dicere laudes. | That Jupiter and all the gods will hear these prayers<br>I carry home a good and sure hope,<br>I, chorus, trained to sing the praises<br>of Phoebus and Diana. |